

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TODD H. STROGER

PRESIDENT

EARLEAN COLLINS
ROBERT STEELE
JERRY BUTLER
WILLIAM M. BEAVERS
DEBORAH SIMS
JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY
JOSEPH MARIO MORENO
EDWIN REYES

1st Dist.	PETER N. SILVESTRI	9th Dist.
2nd Dist.	BRIDGET GAINER	10th Dist.
3rd Dist.	JOHN P. DALEY	11th Dist.
4th Dist.	FORREST CLAYPOOL	12th Dist.
5th Dist.	LARRY SUFFREDIN	13th Dist.
6th Dist.	GREGG GOSLIN	14th Dist.
7th Dist.	TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER	15th Dist.
8th Dist.	ANTHONY J. PERAICA	16th Dist.
	ELIZABETH ANN DOODY GORMAN	17th Dist.



OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT INSPECTOR GENERAL

PATRICK M. BLANCHARD

INSPECTOR GENERAL

69 West Washington
Suite 1160
Chicago, Illinois 60602
TEL (312) 603-0350
FAX (312) 603-9948

April 15, 2010

Honorable Todd H. Stroger
and Members of the Board of Commissioners
of Cook County, Illinois
118 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Independent Inspector General Quarterly Report (1st Qtr. 2010)

Dear President Stroger and Members of the Board of Commissioners:

This report is written in accordance with section 2-287 of the Independent Inspector General (OIIG) Ordinance, Cook County, Ill., Ordinances 07-O-52 (2007), to apprise you of the activities of this office during the time period of January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010.

In connection with the number of complaints received during the subject reporting period, please be advised that this office has received a total of 108 complaints. During the same period in 2009, this office received 81 complaints. As you may recall, the 1st quarter of 2009 was the first full reporting period following my appointment. In the first quarter of 2008, the Inspector General's Office reported 24 complaints. I anticipate these numbers to continue to rise simply by virtue of the fact that, as the OIIG increases the number of investigative staff, a greater number of county employees will have personal contact with our representatives which fosters the exchange of information. We also have continued our outreach efforts including distribution of literature and instructional seminars.

As indicated to you in previous reports, upon receipt of a complaint, an OIIG complaint number is assigned to the contact and a triage process of each complaint is undertaken by me in consultation with the two Deputy Inspectors General. We will initiate a formal investigation when appropriate by assigning an IIG case number and investigator to the matter. In order to streamline the OIIG process, if a complaint is not initially opened as a formal investigation it will be reviewed as an "OIIG inquiry." This level of review involves a determination of corroborating evidence before assigning an IIG case number to the complaint.¹ When the initial review reveals information warranting the opening of a formal investigation, an OIIG case number is assigned. The remaining complaints are then subject of formal inquiry at the appropriate time.

¹ Pursuant to section 2-288 of the OIIG Ordinance, each formal investigation requires the issuance of an IIG Summary Report.



Accordingly, please be aware that of the 108 complaints received by this office during this quarter, 30 active investigations have been initiated. This number also includes those investigations resulting from the exercise of my own initiative (sec. 2-284(2)). Additionally, of the recent complaints received, 24 have involved an OIIG inquiry prior to closing. There are 15 open OIIG inquiries pending. Six cases have been referred to other enforcement agencies.² The following is a list reflecting the issues involved in the recently opened investigations. In this report, I have attempted to provide additional details of issues under review while maintaining the confidentiality of OIIG investigations.

<u>No. of Investigation</u>	<u>Description of Allegation Under Review</u>
4	The OIIG is reviewing issues related to the manipulation of the hiring process by, for example, providing a favored applicant the answers to interview questions in advance and the violation of Cook County ordinance restricting elected officials from providing hiring recommendations verbally and without personal knowledge of the applicant;
4	Violation of local, state or federal law in the form of a violation of court order (carrying a weapon on duty), bribery and time fraud;
2	Providing false information in an application for employment;
7	Unlawful Political Discrimination (UPD or " <i>Shakman</i> claims");
1	Obstructing <i>Shakman</i> monitoring efforts;
1	Accounting irregularities;
1	Management negligence in the form of perpetuating a relationship with a subordinate;
2	Contractor/Subcontractor fraud by, among other things, violating the terms of the W/MBE Ordinance;

² The OIIG also currently has several cases that are being jointly investigated with compliance administrators and outside law enforcement agencies.

Honorable Todd H. Stroger
and Members of the Board of Commissioners
April 15, 2010
Page 3

- 2 We have opened 2 investigations designed to review the practices of 2 separate Cook County departments. These surveys will involve desk audits, policy review and interviews with the goal of identifying methods that may be utilized to improve operations and identify misconduct;
- 1 Sexual harassment;
- 2 Violation of policy though inappropriate behavior and a review of the practice of collecting funds from employees for charity purposes unrelated to county operations;
- 2 Misuse of county equipment/facilities for political campaign purposes;
- 1 Mismanagement of random drug testing protocols and employee efforts to avoid testing.

The OIIG currently has a total of 149 matters under investigation.

During the 1st quarter of 2010, the OIIG issued 18 Summary Reports. Each of the cases involved departments under the Office of the President with the exception of one matter that was not sustained involving the office of the Clerk of Cook County and another matter involving the Health and Hospitals System. The OIIG completed two investigations involving elected officials.³ In connection with the cases involving OIIG recommendations for the imposition of disciplinary action and/or to remediate management policy or practice, each such recommendation was adopted with one exception. The OIIG recommended the imposition of discipline involving an employee in the Highway Department that was rejected by management.⁴

Please be aware that recent OIIG recommendations have included a recommendation to offer the members of the Board of Commissioners a comprehensive overview of all the issues and related Cook County ordinances and resolutions pertaining to unlawful political discrimination and the appropriate manner in which officials may communicate information concerning prospective government employees. I anticipate that the seminars will be offered to members in the coming weeks and will be presented through the efforts of the Office of the

³ In October 2009, this Board amended the OIIG Ordinance (sec. 2-284(1)(a)) to permit the conduct of an investigation that directly involves an elected official upon articulable suspicion by the Independent Inspector General. The noted cases involved the exercise of this authority. Again, I would like to recognize the importance of the Board's amendment particularly in light of the City of Chicago's recent deliberations on whether a city I.G. should possess authority to independently open an investigation involving sitting alderman.

⁴ This represents the second instance wherein management has failed to adopt an OIIG recommendation.

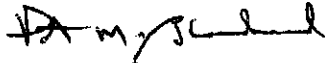
Honorable Todd H. Stroger
and Members of the Board of Commissioners
April 15, 2010
Page 4

President, Cook County Compliance Administrator Mary Robinson and myself. I encourage all members of the Board to attend.

As you are aware, the OIIG Ordinance addresses the authorization to issue subpoenas. The issuance of a subpoena by this office generally involves third parties rather than employees of Cook County government because employees already have a duty to cooperate with our office pursuant to the OIIG Ordinance. Since my appointment it has been our experience that compliance with all OIIG requests for documents, records or testimony, whether through subpoena or otherwise, has been the rule with only minor exceptions. We have recently met with an objection to our request for documentation through subpoena that may result in enforcement efforts by this office through the Circuit Court of Cook County. I have attached both a copy of recent correspondence addressing the issues and the subject subpoena for your information. I will keep you apprised with developments concerning this issue.

Thank you for your time and attention to these issues. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this report further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Patrick M. Blanchard
Independent Inspector General
(312) 603-0364